

1 THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY  
2 OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

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- 4 1. A system of extracting a visual feature from a dataset, comprising:  
5 (a) display means for displaying said dataset;  
6 (b) means for defining a block of voxels corresponding to a selected portion of said  
7 displayed dataset, said block containing said visual feature therein;  
8 (c) means for removing from said block voxels not containing said visual feature, to  
9 generate a feature block;  
10 (d) means for generating a mask from said feature block; and  
11 (e) means for rendering said dataset using said mask.
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- 13 2. A method for extracting a visual feature from a dataset representing an image of an  
14 object, said method comprising the steps of:  
15 (a) displaying said dataset;  
16 (b) defining a block of voxels corresponding to a selected portion of said displayed  
17 dataset, said block containing said visual feature therein;  
18 (c) removing from said dataset voxels not contained by said selected portion, to  
19 generate a feature block;  
20 (d) generating a mask from said feature block; and  
21 (e) rendering said dataset using said mask.
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- 23 3. An article of manufacture comprising:  
24 (a) a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied  
25 therein for extracting a visual feature from a dataset representing an image of  
26 an object, the computer readable program code in said article of manufacture  
27 comprising;  
28 (b) computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to display  
29 said dataset;  
30 (c) computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to define a  
31 block of voxels corresponding to a selected portion of said displayed dataset,  
32 said block containing said visual feature therein;

- 1                   (d) computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to remove  
2                   from said dataset voxels not contained by said selected portion, to generate a  
3                   feature block;  
4                   (e) computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to generate a  
5                   mask from said feature block; and  
6                   (f) computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to render  
7                   said dataset using said mask.

102240 - 00600650